

Message Text

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22

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 AF-06

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 /133 W

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R 121830Z FEB 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1138

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MTN GENEVA 1044

STATE PASS STR FOR INFO

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MTN, ETRD, GATT, JA

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON TARIFF RATE INFORMATION FILE
(TRIF)

REF: STATE 032572, MTN GENEVA 0682

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS SENT AS BACKGROUND FOR EMBASSY
ACTION REQUESTED REFTEL.

2. AT JULY 1975 TARIFFS GROUP MEETING, THE GROUP AGREED TO
ESTABLISH A TARIFF RATE INFORMATION FILE (TRIF) ON THE BASIS
OF SUBMISSIONS BY GOVERNMENTS OF DETAILED INFORMATION ON
THEIR VARIOUS TARIFF RATES ON SELECTED DATES. THESE FILES
WOULD INCLUDE GATT RATES, MOST-FAVORED-NATION RATES
APPLIED TO GATT COUNTRIES IN THE ABSENCE OF OTHER LEGISLATION,
E.G., TEMPORARY DUTY CHANGES, MOST-FAVORED-NATION
RATES ACTUALLY APPLIED TO IMPORTS FROM GATT COUNTRIES, AND
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EFFECTIVELY APPLIED RATES UNDER THE GSP. THE GROUP ALSO

AGREED THAT THE INFORMATION SHOULD REFER TO 1 JANUARY OR 1 APRIL 1972, 1 JANUARY 1973 AND 1 JANUARY 1974. MOST NATIONS INCLUDING THE US, EEC AND CANADA, BASED THEIR TARIFF INFORMATION ON 1 JANUARY 1974, BUT THE JAPANESE, STATING THAT THEY WANTED TO PRESENT A MOVING PICTURE OF THEIR RATES, SUBMITTED TARIFF DATA FOR THREE YEARS, INCLUDING RATES PRIOR TO THE 1972 UNILATERAL REDUCTION IN THE JAPANESE TARIFF.

3. THE GATT SUBSEQUENTLY CIRCULATED A REQUEST FOR DATA (MTN/3A/W/11, OCT 24) WHICH OUTLINED THE TYPE OF INFORMATION AND THE FORMAT REQUIRED FOR THE SUBMISSIONS ON MAGNETIC TAPE. THIS LIST OF REQUESTED INFORMATION INCLUDED THE TARIFF LINE DESCRIPTION. MOST OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR TRIF COMPUTER TAPES TO THE GATT, AND ALL OF THOSE SUBMITTED, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JAPAN, INCLUDE TRAFF LINE DESCRIPTIONS IN ENGLISH OR FRENCH.

4. AS WE HAVE NOTED (SEE REFTEL), JAPAN HAS BEEN VERY UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT FILES BECAUSE OF ITS VIEWS ON THE CHOICE OF A BASE RATE/BASE DATE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN SEVERAL MEETINGS, THE JAPANESE HAVE TOLD US THAT JAPAN'S TRIF DOES NOT CONTAIN DESCRIPTIONS BECAUSE IT WOULD TAKE A LONG TIME TO PREPARE THEM AND BECAUSE THEIR EXPERTS CANNOT UNDERSTAND AND, THEREFORE, CANNOT INSCRIBE DESCEIPTIONS IN ENGLISH. WE NOTED THAT OFFICIAL JAPANESE PUBLICATION ON TARIFFS CONTAINS DESCRIPTIONS IN ENGLISH AS DONE FOR THE DOUANE FOR JAPAN PUBLISHED IN BRUSSELS AND ASKED THE JAPANESE TO ADD ABBREVIATED PRODUCT DESCRIPTIONS TO THEIR FILES. WE HAVE ALSO INDICATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO EXCHANGE TRIF'S UPON RECEIVING JAPANESE ASSURANCE THAT THEY WILL FURNISH DESCEIPTIONS TO THEIR FILE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AS MTN GENEVA 0682 NOTES WE HAVE ALREADY EXCHANGED FILES WITH CANADA AND EC.

5. WE AND OTHERS VIEW TRIF AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF BASIC DOCUMENTATION FOR TARIFF ASPECT OF MTN. BECAUSE OF CONSTANT CHANGES IN DESCRIPTIONS IN JAPANESE TARIFF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WE WOULD FIND JAPANESE TRIF FILE WITHOUT DESCRIPTIONS TO BE OF LIMITED USE. OTHER DELEGATIONS (EC, CANADA) HAVE EXPRESSED THE SAME VIEW AND HAVE ALSO REFUSED TO EXCHANGE TRIF'S WITH JAPANESE UNTIL DESCRIPTIONS ARE SUPPLIED. WALKER

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760054-0987
From: MTN GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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04 MAY 2006

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To: TOKYO
Type: TE
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